THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Hon'ble Chief Ministers made a presentation of preliminary assessment of damage caused by drought in their respective States. Subsequent to that meeting, second instalment of Central Share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2002-03, due in November, has been released to the States in advance. So far, 19.25 lakh MTs tonnes of food-grains have been allocated for Generation of Relief Employment. The allocation from National Calamity Contingency Fund is being finalized by the Ministry of Home Affairs being the nodal Ministry, after deducting the balances available in the CRF of States concerned from the amounts which have been found eligible as per prescribed norms, which is Rs. 1999.14 crores.

Prices of wheat, paddy, cotton and sugarcane

362. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cost of wheat, paddy (rice), cotton and sugarcane has been continuously decreasing for the two decades in several countries of the world;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) the details of the respective prices of the said items at the beginning of the Eighty's and at the end of the Ninety's; and

(d) what were the reasons for decrease in prices of these items in other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The decline in prices as shown in the following table, is indicative of the decline in cost.

International Annual Average Prices of wheat, rice and cotton in selected Countries

(Cents Per Kg.)

Year	Wheat		Rice	Cotton
	USA	Canada	USA	U.K.
1980	18.0	19.3	51.7	218.0
1981	17.7	19.6	62.7	196.0
1982	16.1	16.8	39.5	166.0
1997	13.4	11.7	43.9	172.4
1998	10.7	9.9	41.3	164.2
1999	9.5	9.5	33.3	129.6

SOURCE: Public Ledger-World Commodities Weekly. This does not contain figures for sugarcane.

(d) A number of factors like change in consumption pattern, availability of substitutes, trends in production and supply *vis-a-vis* demand, change in productivity and Government support affect the price level. A combination of these factors has contributed to decline in international prices.

Foodgrain production

363. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand of rice and wheat by the year 2020 is expected to be around 26 crore tonnes which is likely to be doubled as compared to the demand of the year 2000;

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to increase the production of foodgrains;